(b) and (c) Government have seen some media reports suggesting the publication of a white paper. This proposal is not under the consideration of Government of India.

Government is fully resolved to deal firmly with terrorism and will take all measures to safeguard national security.

Supply of Ballistic Missile Components to Pakistan by China

1638. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the US has offered to lift sanctions against China if it desists in future from supplying ballistic missile, components to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether this is a positive development for US, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government are aware of news reports to this effect.

(b) Government have not made any statement on these reports as this is a matter of negotiation between the US and China. Government view the transfer of offensive weapon systems to Pakistan with concern and constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and remain committed to take necessary steps to safeguard India's national interests.

Visit of FICCI Sponsored Indian Industry Delegation

1639. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a FICCI sponsored Indian industry delegation recently visited Newzealand.

(b) if so, whether the delegation skipped many scheduled meetings in Newzealand and its members went sight-seeing thereby hurting the sentiments of the host country;

(c) whether as a fall-out of the Indian delegation's cavalier action, section of the Newzealand industry are feeling humiliated determined not to receive Indian trade delegation in future; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to mllify Newzealand and to restore relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Sir, it was a delegation sponsored by the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry and not FICCI, that visited Newzealand recently.

(b) Sir, the High Commission of India reported to the Ministry of Commerce and this Ministry the delegation had missed some meetings fixed by the Mission at the request of the Gujarat Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(c) Sir, the Caterbury and Auckland Chambers of Commerce expressed their resentment over the cancellations to our High Commission.

(d) Sir, we would continue to impress upon the Newzealand Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its businessman that our delegations are focussed and serious about their visits and a one time aberration due to unforeseen circumstances does not constitute the general behaviour of Indian business delegations. Our High Commission will exert all efforts to ensure that future delegations are received by Newzealand businessmen.

Census of Food Processing Industries in Bihar

1640. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any census of the existing food processing industries in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also studied about the possibilities of expansion and development of food processing industries in Bihar; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) Since the Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information in regard to the State-wise number of all food processing industries is not maintained centrally. However, as per available information, the number of some selected food industries in Bihar is as follows:—

Fruit and vegetable processing units	40
Sweetened aerated water units	12
Rice Mills including hullers	4372
Roller flour mills	58

While no State specific assessment of investment required for encouraging food processing industries have been made by this Ministry, under its Plan Schemes, financial assistance is provided to State Government Organisations/Academic Bodies for conducting studies to assess the potential investment required etc. for development of food processing industries in various States/regions. One such proposal for assistance received from Bihar in this regard has been recently approved. The Ministry seeks to encourage investments in the areas of fruit and vegetable processing, meat, poultry and egg processing, fish processing etc. and for this purpose, many developmental Plan Schemes have been formulated for implementation during the Eighth Five-Year Plan. The financial assistance extended under various schemes in respect of proposals received from Bihar is given in th enclosed Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Scheme under which assistance has been given	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Research and development project on goat, meat processing.	5.00
2.	Establishement of spawn laboratory for mushroom production.	4.65
3.	Setting up of food processing and training centres.	9.00
4.	Conducting study for assessing production availability and marketability surplus of fruit and vegetable and scope for promoting fruit and vegetable processing industries in Bihar.	3.00

Amendments in Charter Policy relating to deep-sea fishing with foreign collaboration

1641. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PORCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make any amendments in the Charter Policy relating to deep-sea fishing with foreign collaboration; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the terms of the amended policy and the technology required to this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Licence to farmers to make rice out of Paddy

1642. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the conditions for the farmers to get licence to make rice out of their paddy;

(b) what are the conditions for the rice-sellers to make rice from paddy;

(c) whether Government are aware of recent strike by rice-sellers of Punjab;

(d) if so, the impact of the strike on